

Application No. 09/869,205

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 16-25 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 16-25 are canceled, and new claims 26-35 are added.

In the last Office Action, claims 16-25 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112, first paragraph. Claims 16-25 have been canceled herein without prejudice.

New claims 26-35 have been added. New claims 26-33 are directed to a method of dialogue between a user and a software agent operating on a server, the software agent including a rational unit. New claims 34 and 35 are directed to a dialogue system between a user and a software agent operating on a server. Support for new claims 26-35 can be found throughout the specification and drawings as filed. Regarding new claims 26, 27, and 34, see, for example, page 13, line 13 – page 14, line 11; page 16, line 20 – page 17, line 9; page 20, line 14 – page 21, line 2; and page 25, lines 13-27, of the substitute specification as filed on June 21, 2001. Regarding new claims 28 and 35, see, for example, page 16, line 15 – page 17, line 22, of the substitute specification. Regarding new claim 29, see, for example, page 12, lines 25-30, of the substitute specification. Regarding new claim 30, see, for example, page 21, line 10 – page 22, line 1, of the substitute specification. Regarding new claim 31, see, for example, page 22, lines 12-23, of the substitute specification. Regarding new claim 32, see, for example, page 22, lines 2-30, of the substitute specification. Regarding new claim 33, see, for example, page 23, lines 4-13, of the substitute specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added, and Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 26-35 are allowable.

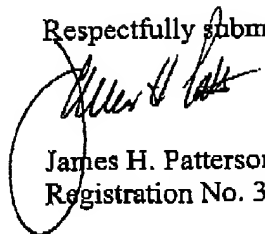
Applicants thank the Examiner for his indications on page 4 of the last Office Action that the previously submitted arguments were persuasive over the prior art and that the Examiner's search has failed to reveal prior art with which to reject the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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